

Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Travis J. Parry

Serial No.: 10/092,050

Filed: March 5, 2002

Docket No.: 10008068-1

Title: PRINTER OPTION SUGGESTION METHOD AND PROGRAM**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for improving use of printing devices in a network computer system, comprising:

determining usage characteristics of at least one printing device;

determining all options available for said at least one printing device, said available options including paper handling, consumable, servicing, print processing, configuration, software, and hardware options for said at least one printing device;

determining all installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device, said installed options including paper handling, consumable, servicing, print processing, configuration, software, and hardware options of said at least one printing device; and

determining a set of optimal options for said at least one printing device based on said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising suggesting at least one change to said at least one printing device for optimizing the use of said at least one printing device with said network computer system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said suggesting at least one change to said at least one printing device for optimizing the use of said at least one printing device with said network computer system comprises suggesting an option selected from the group consisting of using a toner miser function, turning on a job retention memory, and suggesting other printing device configurations.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining the usage characteristics of all printing devices operating on said network computer system.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises monitoring said at least one printing device to determine said usage characteristics.

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6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises retrieving said usage characteristics from a database.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining at least one usage characteristic selected from the group consisting of paper use rate, toner use rate, power use rate, time of print job request, consumable use per job rate, and print job request rate.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining all options available for said at least one printing device comprises retrieving said available options from a database.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining all options available for said at least one printing device comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said available options.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining all options available for said at least one printing device comprises querying a web-site for said available options.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining all installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises retrieving said installed options from a database.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining all installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said installed options.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining a set of optimal options for said at least one printing device based on said usage characteristics, said

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available options and said installed options comprises using fuzzy logic to determine said set of optimal options for said at least one printing device.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device for providing enhanced usage of said at least one printing device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device comprises suggesting at least one service selected from the group consisting of a maintenance service, a charge per page service, and a printing device monitoring service.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for suggesting printing device options in a network computer system, comprising:

- operating a device management program on a computer connected to a network communication;

- determining usage characteristics including an amount and type of use of at least one printing device with said device management program;

- operating a computer program on said computer;

- using said computer program to determine all options available for said at least one printing device, said available options including paper handling, consumable, servicing, print processing, configuration, software, and hardware options for said at least one printing device;

- using said computer program to determine all installed options present on said at least one printing device, said installed options including paper handling, consumable, servicing, print processing, configuration, software, and hardware options of said at least one printing device; and

- using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said at least one printing device based on said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options.

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17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said using said computer program to determine all options available for said at least one printing device comprises:
- connecting to the Internet; and
 - querying a web-site for information about said at least one printing device.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said computer program is configured to communicate with said device management program.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said computer program is a component of said device management program.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said at least one printing device comprises using said computer program to compare said installed options with said available options.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)